Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 IO-13

NIC-01 RSR-01 /114 W

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R 311330Z AUG 73 FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4287 INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N*A TAGS: PFOR, CT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S TRIP TO USSR

REF BANGUI 0945

1. LOCAL MEDIA HAVE REPORTED PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S CURRENT PRIVATE VISIT TO MOSCOW IN SOME DETAIL, USING OCCASION TO EXTOLL CAR-USSR RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO PRESS HERE, BOKASSA GREETED ON ARRIVAL MOSCOW BY HIGH SOVIET OFFICIALS AND ATTENDED LUNCH GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY KOSYGIN. IN EXCHANGE OF TOASTS BOKASSA REPORTEDLY THANKED LATTER FOR SOVIET AID INCLUDING "MORE THAN "00" SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRAISED DETENTE RESULTING FROM NIXON-BREZHNEV MEETINGS. KOSYGIN IN TURN REPORTED AS HAVING ALSO NOTED RECENT BREZHNEV TRAVELS TO US, FRG, AND FRANCE AS MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO ENDING OF COLD WAR. NO INDICATION OF ANY NEW AGREEMENTS SIGNED OR ADDITIONAL AID OBTAINED.

- 2. PRESS HERE QUOTES TASS DESPATCH AS SAYING BOKASSA LEFT MOSCOW AUG. 26 FOR CRIMEA. THIS IS PRESUMABLY WHERE HE WILL VACATION, WHICH IN FACT WAS ANNOUNCED ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF TRIP.
- 3. COMMENT: VISIT SEEMS TO BE SHAPING UP ALONG LINES HIS TRIP LAST MONTH TO ROMANIA, WHICH ALSO WAS PRIVATE BUT INCLUDED MEETINGS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU. BOKASSA'S

PLANS NOW APPARENTLY CALL FOR STOPOVER IN FRANCE AFTER LEAVING USSR AUGUST 30 AND BEFORE PROCEEDING TO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN ALGIERS. HE WILL RETURN TO BANGUI AFTER THAT, THEN REPORTEDLY DEPART AGAIN FOR BELGIUM ABOUT SEPTEBER 20 ON "UNOFFICIAL" VISIT INCLUDING MEETING WITH KING BAUDOUIN.

4. ATTENTION TO SOVIET AND OTHER BLOC ACTIVITIES HERE ALSO HEIGHT-ENED BY VISIT TO BANGUI AUGUST 27-28 OF SOVIET TRADE UNION DELEGATION LED BY PETRIK PAVEL, MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF USSR LABOR UNION, AS WELL AS TWO ROMANIAN AND ONE YUGOSLAV DELEGATIONS OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

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